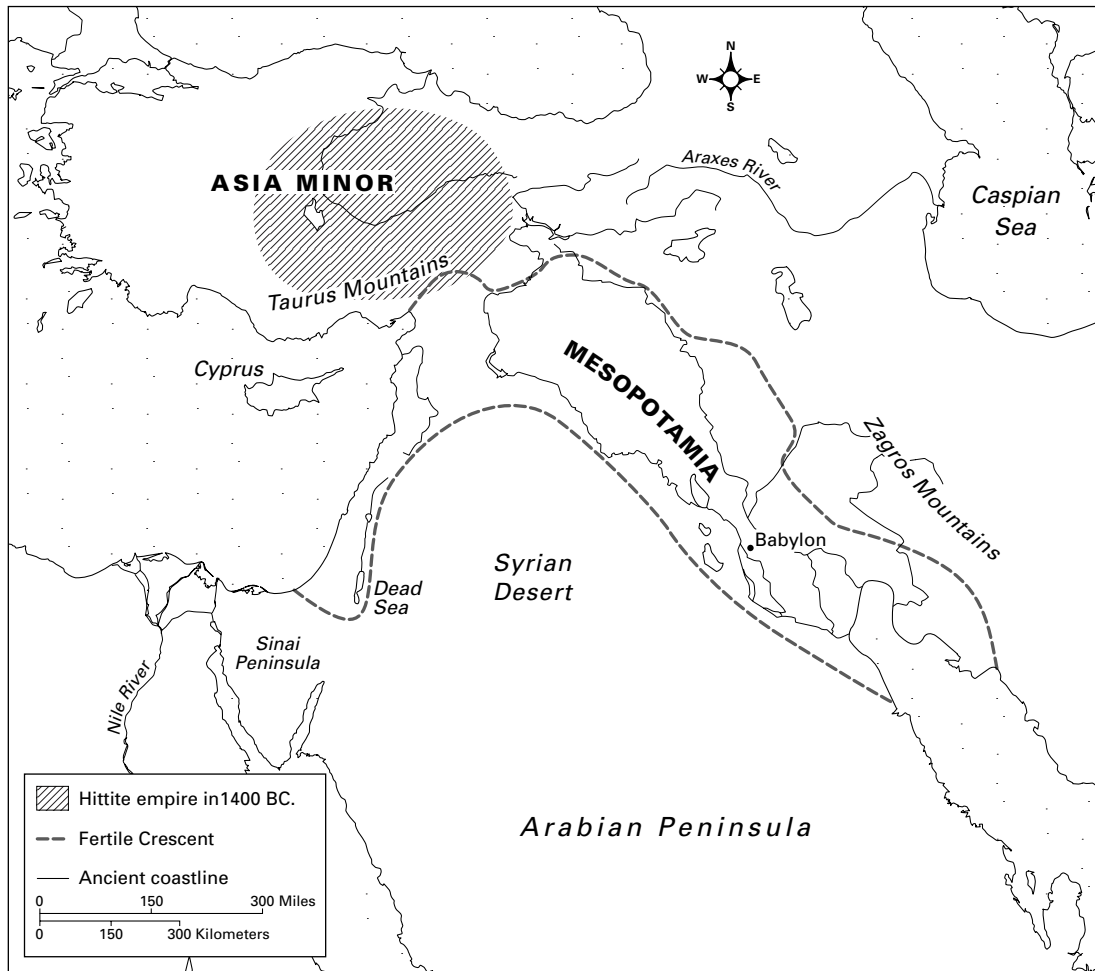


# A Fertile Land

Mesopotamia was part of a larger region called the Fertile Crescent. The Sumerians, the world's first civilization, settled and farmed the land between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. Although Mesopotamia had fertile soil, farming there wasn't easy. The flooding of the rivers destroyed crops. The farmers eventually developed methods that helped them increase the amount of food they could grow. In time, other societies developed along the Tigris and Euphrates, such as Babylonia and the Hittite Empire.



**MAP ACTIVITY**

1. Use a light color to shade in the area that formed the Fertile Crescent on the map.
2. What large body of water is southeast of the Fertile Crescent? Label it on the map.
3. What are the names of the two rivers that flow through Mesopotamia and the Fertile Crescent? Label them on the map.
4. What large body of water is west and northwest of the Fertile Crescent? Label it on the map.

**ANALYZING MAPS**

**1. Region** How far did the Fertile Crescent stretch from north to south?

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**2. Place** In what area was the Hittite Kingdom located?

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**3. Location** On what river is Babylon located?

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**4. Human-Environment Interaction** How might the development of farming have led to civilization? Explain your answer.

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**5. Movement** Why do you think control of the areas within the Fertile Crescent was important to groups like the Hittites?

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